

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

We have certainly been blessed with front row seats to see the Holy Spirit actively at work among His people these last couple of months. God has added to His church on a weekly basis those who have been saved and those who have come to be part of the family. Literally, we have seen more people baptized over the last two months than at any other time in Easthaven's history. It is so exciting to enter the sanctuary every week with a growing sense of anticipation of what our gracious God might do among us this day.

We have just completed a study through the

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early chapters of Acts in an attempt to rediscover some strands of DNA that the early church had that seem to be missing in believers today. During our studies we observed their excitement and genuine celebration over the new life they found in Christ. They had a very real sense of joy about life that was contagious to the entire city of Jerusalem. It is our

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EASTHAVEN

Presents

Inspirational Speaker & bestselling author of
90 Minutes in Heaven

Don Piper



Sunday, August 22 ~ 8:15 & 10:30 AM

On his way home from a church conference in 1989, Don Piper's Ford Escort was struck head-on by an 18-wheeler. He was killed instantly — pronounced dead by four sets of paramedics. But God worked a miracle and sent Don back to a broken body. To date, 34 surgical procedures have taken place. During the time he was dead, Piper was granted the extreme privilege of glimpsing Heaven itself.

Since the release of his bestselling book, 90 Minutes in Heaven - a True Story of Death and Life, Don has traveled across the country and around the world sharing his amazing story. His message is simple ... We can have a better life now and an eternal life someday through faith in Jesus Christ!



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MISSIONS NEWS

REFLECTIONS ON HAITI

No one said it would be easy.

When you descend through the Caribbean clouds and view Haiti for the first time, you realize it won't be easy. Tiny blue and white tents grow larger and larger until you land. Then you step out into the heavy heat of Haiti and you're in the thick of it. Smells from charcoal cooking pots hang heavy on the air. People speaking Creole surround you; some stare at you as you exit the airport and some return your wide smile. Poverty and culture shock hits you hard, but you're too caught up in what you see to feel it.

On the streets you see what you saw on the news, only it's real. The streets are a steady stream of cars and people. School children in uniform hurry down the alleys and women balance giant basins of plantains on their heads. Men repaint the walls of their restaurants and auto parts stores. Advertisements for cell phones and Coca Cola abound in color along the roads. Where the houses are, collapsed walls and second story floors jut out. Everything is concrete; everything looks like a fallen house of cards.

We watched all of this when making our way to the Florida House. Some snapped quick pictures of the foreign sights; others took the surroundings in quietly. At the house we felt enclosed. The sliding gates and security guards gave a sense of safety. But just over the walls, Haitian radio waves floated on the air as the neighbors cooked their evening meals.

In Haiti, the sun goes down just after dinner and it comes back around early. After an early breakfast, the volunteers staying at the Florida House gather for devotions beneath a tall mango tree. Then wheel barrows and sledgehammers are loaded into a convoy of vehicles. Our group loaded backpacks of jump ropes, crayons, and Bible story books.

For two weeks, we played with Haitian children of all kinds. They were the street kids from around the block; they were the school children blessed enough to afford an education. All of them smiled the brightest smiles you could imagine. Day after day, they faithfully came to see us even if the rain

fell in sheets. We taught them games and they taught us to sing in Creole. The language barrier made some days difficult. But quickly we realized that soccer and laughter are universal languages.

With the help of patient translators, we asked about the earthquake. The Haitians openly shared their stories, hungry for a listening ear. The stories broke our hearts. The sights of Haiti broke our hearts. But we realized this: Haitians are a resilient people. Rubble flows onto the streets, yet they keep smiling. One million Haitians still live in tents while hurricane season looms on the waters, but they keep rebuilding. January seems so distant, but the memory of the earthquake will never leave them. Even so, their faith is indescribable. It's the one thing I noticed most, one of the things I greatly envied of these kind-hearted people.

As we flew out of Haiti, I reflected on their shining faith. From a window seat, I watched the Haitian shoreline turn into turquoise-blue water and caught sight of a rainbow. Though my time in Haiti had come to an end, it was then I realized that the resilient faith of the Haitians would be teaching me for the rest of my life.

~*Kathleen Reavis*

UPCOMING MISSIONS TRIPS

Youth Mission Trip to Mexico	August 3-14
Czech Republic	July 21-August 5
Leadership Training & Medical Mission trip to Uganda	September 13-24

Pray for these teams as they prepare to GO.



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MEET YOUR DEACONS . . .

To help you get better acquainted with our Deacons you will see their pictures in our newsletter regularly. Their names and phone numbers are listed in the church bulletin, and three are assigned for service each week. Call one of them if you have need of assistance.



Dale Brandeberry



Curt Ethington

prayer that we might portray that same exuberance for our new life in Christ that seemed so definitive of those first followers.

Part of our pursuit of this is seen in the ways that we are reaching out to our community and our world. Just in the last few weeks we have seen God use a team of eight people from our church family in earthquake ravaged Haiti. We've had the opportunity for our church to come alongside a sister church in Missoula to aid them with a significant building remodel project. We've had opportunity to make our baptistery available to another church in our community. At the same time, we are preparing mission teams to go to the Czech Republic to help with an English camp and several relational outreach projects, to Mexico to help build a home for an impoverished family, and to Uganda to offer free medical clinics to orphans and training for pastors.

I never cease to be amazed at the many ways God chooses to use His people to reach out to the world and to touch our own community in significant ways. I do not believe we have scratched the surface of the potential of all He desires, but we are developing a hearty appetite for the taste of His Spirit working through us in very exciting ways.

*Serving in Joy,
~ Pastor Daniel <><*

SUMMER CAMPS

Glacier Meadow Weekend Family Camp	July 9-11
Children's Quilting Camp (age 8+, at EBC)	July 12-15
GSBA Sr. High Camp	July 12-16
Glacier Meadow Weekend Family Camp	July 16-18
GSBA Children's Camp	July 19-23
GSBA Jr. High Camp	July 26-30
Children's Theater Camp (gr. 3-6, at EBC)	Aug. 2-6
Family Camp-out at Middle Thompson	Aug. 13-15

ATTENDANCE~GIVING RECORDS

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (JUNE MONTH TO DATE AVERAGE)		SEEKING GOD THROUGH HIS WORD (JUNE MONTH TO DATE AVERAGE)		FINANCIAL REPORT (MONTH TO DATE AS OF 6/20/2010)	
Easthaven Baptist Church	649	Sunday Morning Bible Study	94	YTD Budget Requirement	\$442,289
Kila Country Church, Kila	75	Nightlife (Discipleship studies)	193	YTD Receipts	\$366,546
Harvest Baptist Church, Kalispell	42	Assisted Living Bible Studies	50	Month to date budget requirement	\$85,619
Convergence Ministries, Missoula	63	Total Average	337	Month to date receipts	\$46,419

CONVERGENCE MINISTRIES UPDATE—MISSOULA

Thanks so much for your continued prayers and support for Convergence Ministries in Missoula. This spring has been a wonderful time for our growing ministry efforts here in the Missoula Valley. During March and April our spiritual family participated in a *Life's Healing Choices* spiritual growth campaign. It is our prayer that this campaign will be a precursor to offering a *Celebrate Recovery* ministry sometime later this year. At the end of the *LHC* campaign we held a celebration banquet where two babies were dedicated and four adults and one child made a public declaration of their faith in a baptism celebration!

During the month of May our Wednesday evening worship celebrations averaged 61 in attendance! And, we continue to have six Community Groups meeting each week throughout the area. God

is beginning to stir the waters in Lolo and we have numerous readiness and preparation steps in place this summer in order to launch a Convergence Lolo site sometime later in 2010.

On the mission involvement front, two of our UM college students (Hollie Harris & Kathleen Reavis) recently went to Haiti to serve earthquake victims. In addition, we have a group of six or so planning to go serve alongside the Canadian Baptist Seminary in late July. And, in November, a group of five will be journeying to Kenya!

Please join us in prayer that God will fill us with His Spirit and empower us to share and show His love to people in the Missoula Valley. It is our prayer that many will encounter God, experience community, and engage culture for the sake of the Kingdom.

Blessings,
~ *Rich Ratts*
Lead Planter, Convergence Ministries



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